

THE HUMBLE
PROPOSALS

And DESIRES of
His Excellency the Lord *Fairfax*,
And of the
General Council

Of OFFICERS,
In order to a speedy prosecution
OF
JUSTICE,
AND

The Settlement formerly propounded by them.

BY the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord Fairfax,
Lord General, and His General Council of Officers,
Decemb. 6. 1648.

Signed,
JOHN RUSHWORTH Secr

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Decemb. 7. 1648.



To the Honorable,
The Commons of England assembled in Parliament:

THE HUMBLE
PROPOSALS

And Desires of His Excellency the Lord *Fairfax*, and of the general
 Council of Officers, in order to a speedy prosecution of Justice,
 and the Settlement formerly propounded by them.

HAVING, with others, for a long while sadly
 beheld and tasted, in your proceedings,
 the miserable fruits of Councils divided
 and corrupted by Faction and personal Interest,
 even to the neglect, betraying and casting away
 all that publique and good, to the lengthning
 out of endless troubles, burthen and damage to
 the Kingdom, to the continuance and widening
 of that issue of blood, whereby these Nations have
 been so much polluted and consumed, and to the
 perpetual hazard of Bondage and Destruction to
 them at last: And both we and many others ha-
 ving propounded foundations of Justice and Set-
 tlement, which are of evident Advantage and Se-
 curity to the publique Interest, and clear from
 any thing that personal or particular; But find-
 ing that through th'aforesaid Corruption and
 Divisions in your Councils, the same can obtain

no

no place or consideration at all: And foreseeing evidently that the condition of the Kingdom will not bear delay of Settlement one way or other, We conceive our selves and others that are sensible hereof, to be necessitated unto some extraordinary vigorous and speedy way, whereby those roots of Faction, Division, and private Interests may be weeded out from amongst you, and so your Councils cleared and united, to the timely and effectual prosecution of Justice, with a sound Settlement and publique good to the Kingdom, and to the speedy introducing of such a succeeding Authority, wherein future Differences may be prevented, and a general Acquiescence obtained.

Therefore seeing no better or other way, We propound and demand as followeth:

1. Whereas *Denzil Hollis* Esq; *Lionel Copley* Esq; Major Gen: *Massey*, and others of your Members, (whose Names you well know) were in the year 1647. impeached by your selves for Treason, or for high Crimes and Misdemeanors, in relation to the Treasonable Engagement in the City of *London*, The violence then done upon the Parliament, and The levying of a new War, and other evils in maintenance and prosecution thereof, and upon clear proofs against them, were by your censure expelled the House, and disabled from fur-

ther trust therein, and upon new Writs issued out new Members were chosen and returned in some of their rooms; and yet by the prevalence of their Faction (*When in the last Summers War divers faithful Members were engaged abroad upon necessary publique service, and others through Malignant Tumults and Disturbances could not safely attend the House*) the same persons were afterwards re-admitted to sit in the House, and Vote as formerly, without any tryal or satisfaction in the things whereof they were accused: We demand, That all those Members so Impeached, may be forthwith secured, to be brought to Justice or Trial for their said Crimes; and that such others of their Faction, by whose Votes, Councils and Confederacy they were so re-admitted, may be secluded from the House, and not sit as Judges for those their confederates.

2. Whereas by the Confederacy of Major Gen: *Brown* now Sheriff of *London*, with the said Impeached Members, the Scots were invited and drawn in to invade this Kingdom the last Summer, in so much as when upon the actual Invasion the House proceeded to declare them Enemies, and those that adhered to them Traytors; yet the said Confederates and other treacherous Members (to the number of Ninety and odde, as upon the division of the House appeared) did by their
Coun-

Councils and Votes endeavor to hinder the House from declaring against their confederate Invaders; We desire, That the said Major Gen: *Brown* may be secured and brought to judgement, for that and other his treacherous Confederacies or Correspondencies with the publique and declared Enemies of the Kingdom (which we hereby charge him with, and shall be ready to make proof of) And that the rest of the Ninety and odde persons dissenting in the said Vote, may be excluded, and not trusted further in your Councils.

3. Whereas in a continued Series of your proceedings for many moneths together, we have seen the prevalence of the same treacherous, corrupt and divided Councils, through Factions and private Interests, opposing or obstructing Justice in all kinds, diverting your Councils from any thing of publique good, hindring any proceedings to any such Settlement, as would consist with Security to the publique Interest, or put a real end to the Troubles, Burthens or Hazards of the Kingdom, and precipitating into treacherous and destructive Compliances and Conjunctions with the acknowledged Enemies thereof; and this we have have seen particularly in the corrupt Councils and Resolves of receding from, and recalling

calling the Votes of *No more Addresses to the King,*
 &c. (the justness and necessity whereof you had
 once so cleared to the world) also in the Votes for
 entertaining or seeking (after all that) a Personal
 Treaty with the King your Prisoner, upon such
 Propositions as himself should tender, as well as
 your own, offering upon imperfect (and those
 but wrested) Concessions from him, to Restore
 him, with impunity, to Honor, Freedom, Safety,
 and his Revenue, exempting all (even the princi-
 pal) Authors and Actors in the last Summers
 War from capital Punishment or Tryal, and
 bringing off the rest with Fines or Censures
 most inconsiderable to the publique Damage and
 Mischief they have done; whereby both they and
 others are encouraged to renew and multiply the
 Kingdoms Troubles: And lastly, in the Votes
 declaring the Kings past Concessions to be a
 Ground for the House to proceed upon, for the
 Settlement of the P E A C E of the Kingdom,
 notwithstanding the visible insufficiency and
 defects of them in things essentially concern-
 ing the publique Interest, and Liberties of the
 Kingdom (as those propounded in our late Re-
 monstrance are) and in other matters both Reli-
 gious and civil (from which, by express Covenant
 or publique Faith given, you were obliged not to
 recede)

(7)

recede. In which Votes & counsels it is apparent, those that are guilty of the have deserted, betrayed & justly forfeited their Trust for the publique; in-
somuch that we dare appeal to all well affected or reasonable men, Whether there be any hopes by, or with the conjunction of such men in your Councils, to have any sound or timely Settlement, to have any end of Troubles, Burthens or Hazards, or any publique good done for the Kingdom: We therefore most earnestly desire, That all such faithful Members who are innocent in these things, would immediately (by Protestation and publique Declaration) acquit themselves from any guilt of, or concurrence in the several Votes or Counsels here before particularly mentioned, as corrupt or destructive, that the Kingdom may know who they are that have kept their Trust, and distinguish them from the rest that have thus falsified the same; and that all such as cannot or shall not so acquit themselves particularly, may be immediately excluded or suspended the House, and not readmitted, until they shall have given clear satisfaction therein to the Judgement of those who now so acquit themselves, and the grounds of such satisfaction be published to the Kingdom.

4 Thus, such as by faithfulness have retained
their

(8)

their Trust, being set in a condition to pursue and perform the same, without such Interruptions, Diversions and Depravations of Councils, as formerly, We shall desire and hope you will speedily and vigorously proceed, To take order for the execution of Justice, To set a short period to your own Power, To provide for a speedy Succession of equal Representatives, according to our late Remonstrance, wherein Differences in the Kingdom may be ended, and we and others may comfortably acquiesce; as (for our parts) we hereby engage and assure you we shall.

*By the Appointment of His Excellency the Lord
Fairfax, Lord General, and His General
Council of Officers, December 6. 1648.*

Signed,

JOHN RUSHWORTH Secr

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